

BOOK NOTICE

BEN-ERIK VAN WYK and MICHAEL WINK. 2004. **Medicinal Plants of the World**. (ISBN 0-88192-602-7, hbk.) Timber Press Inc. 133 S.W. Second Ave, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (Orders: www.timberpress.com, mail@timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 1-800-327-5680, 503-227-3070 fax). \$39.95, 480 pp., 793 color photos, 3 tables, 137 diagrams, 6 1/2" × 9 1/2".

Medicinal Plants of the World is a comprehensive and scientifically accurate guide to the best known and most important medicinal plants, including those of special commercial or historical interest. This book is a *Photographic* guide including info on their botany, main traditional uses, active ingredients, pharmacological effects and evidence of efficacy (if known) in a compact, colorful, reference text. *Medicinal Plants* does a wonderful job of conceptualizing the more than 320 plants in the book. The regulatory status of each plant is also given—whether it is listed in one or more pharmacopoeias, including the German Commission E monographs, the new ESCOP monographs of the European Community and the World Health Organization's series of monographs (all species treated in the last-mentioned three works will be found in this book). In the back of the book, the authors do well to include "A Quick Guide to Commercialized Medicinal Plants" and a "Glossary of Chemical, Medical and Pharmaceutical Terms." The book seems to be geared toward the specialist and not the "average gardener." The guide is organized alphabetically by genus species, and common names in subtitles. Without some previous knowledge of botanical names, the user will be referencing the index frequently. Nine hundred plants are covered in the book, but 320 have comprehensive detail including plant description, geographic origin, therapeutic category, historical and modern uses, active ingredients and pharmacological effects—Asha McElfish, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*